

Official Rules for Showstopper’s 2026 Showstopper Day Essay Contest (the “Contest”)

No purchase necessary. Registration at any Showstopper event does not enhance your chance of winning.

Eligibility: The Contest is open to legal residents of the United States, including Washington, D.C., who are between the ages of 10 and 18 years of age at the time of entry. **Entrants under the age of 13 years old must have the permission of his/her parent or legal guardian prior to entry, however, the entry must be written by the minor entrant.** Employees of Showstopper LLC (“Sponsor”), as well as the immediate family and household members of those employees, are not eligible to enter.

Entry Period: The Entry Period begins at 9:00am Eastern Time on April 7, 2026, and ends at 11:59pm Eastern Time on April 16, 2026. Sponsor’s clock will be the official timekeeping device for the Contest.

How to Enter: Entrants may submit one (1) entry through the *Showstopper Magazine Online* website. During the Entry Period, entrant must navigate to <https://showstopper.vip/2026-showstopper-day-essay-contest/> to reach the submission form. Entrant must complete the submission form and all required information. Entrant and entrant’s parent/legal guardian must have accepted Sponsor’s Terms of Use and Privacy Policy by checking the applicable box. There is a limit of one (1) entry per person. **By participating in the Contest, each entrant and their parent/legal guardian agrees to these Official Rules and all the decisions of Sponsor, which are final and binding in all respects.**

Entry Requirements: Essays must be written by the qualifying dancer only. Essay must be 500-1,000 words in length. Submissions that do not meet or exceed this requirement will be automatically disqualified from the Contest. All essays must be the original work of the entrant whose name is on the submission form. Plagiarism, including the use of generative AI, will result in automatic disqualification.

Winner Selection: All eligible entries will be read and reviewed by Showstopper Magazine’s Lead Editor, Veronica Good prior to April 20, 2026. Veronica will select the winning essays that are exemplary responses to any of the four (4) essay prompts, based on the writer’s ability to capture the reader’s attention and build a clear sense of the writer’s understanding of and personal relationship with dance (the “Main Prize Winners”). One (1) additional essay will be selected to win the Crystal Essay Award for best capturing the spirit of Showstopper Day (the “Crystal Essay Award Winner”). The Crystal Essay Award-winning essay will thoughtfully explore personal relationships with dance and demonstrate a clear desire to share and spread dance with others. **All winners will be announced on Showstopper Day, April 21, 2026, on the @goshowstopper and @goshowstoppermagazine Instagram accounts.**

Prizes: Each winning essay will be published on *Showstopper Magazine Online's* website. The Main Prize Winners will receive Showstopper-branded merchandise and a gift certificate to be used for Showstopper competition or convention fees (as decided by winner). The approximately retail value (ARV) of each prize is \$200, and the total ARV of all prizes together is \$1,000. The Crystal Essay Award Winner will receive a Crystal Star Trophy and Showstopper merchandise. The ARV of the Crystal Essay Award prize is \$150.

Any prize details not specified above will be determined by Sponsor in its sole discretion. A prize may not be transferred prior to award and must be accepted as awarded. A winner may not request cash or a substitute prize.

General Conditions: Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify and seek damages from any individual who tampers with the operation of the Contest, violates these Official Rules, or acts in a disruptive or unsportsmanlike manner. Sponsor's failure to enforce any term of these Official Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision. The Contest is subject to federal, provincial, state, and local laws and regulations and is void where prohibited.

Release and Limitations of Liability: By participating in the Contest, the entrant and entrant's parent/legal guardian agree to release and hold harmless Sponsor, its parent, affiliates, and subsidiaries, and each of their respective officers, directors, employees, and agents (the "Released Parties") from and against any claim or cause of action arising out of participation in the Contest, including, but not limited to: (a) technical errors that may impair your ability to participate in the Contest; and (b) any claim or allegation that your submission infringes any copyright, trademark, or any other intellectual property right.

Privacy and Publicity: Any information submitted as part of the Contest may be used for purposes of this Contest and treated in accordance with Sponsor's Privacy Policy found at <https://www.goshowstopper.com/privacy-policy/>. To "opt out" of the disclosure of any of your personal information by Sponsor, email Sponsor at legal@goshowstopper.com, providing your name, address, and indicating your request to opt out. Except where prohibited, submission of an entry constitutes consent to Sponsor and *Showstopper Magazine's* right to use, reproduce, transmit, post, distribute, adapt, edit, and/or display the essay on social media, goshowstopper.com, goshowstopper.com/magazine, and in print materials.

Governing Law: All issues and questions regarding the construction, validity, interpretation, and enforceability of these Official Rules, your rights and obligations, or the rights and obligations of Sponsor in connection with the Contest shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of South Carolina, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules.

Sponsor: The Contest is sponsored by Showstopper LLC, 1340 Dividend Loop, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577.